

Appl. No. 09/976,327  
Amendment and/or Response  
Reply to Office action of 2 May 2003

Page 6 of 7

### REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

The final Office action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 USC § 102(b) over U.S. Pat. No. 5,301,090 to Hed, and rejects claims 1-14, 18, and 19 under 35 USC § 103(a) over various combinations of U.S. Pat. No. 5,301,090 to Hed, U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,669 to Hed, published U.S. Pat. Appl. No. 2002/0051357 A1, and Japanese reference JP2000258052A (Komiya). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. All the rejected claims are patentable at least because none of the cited references teach or suggest the feature of independent claims 1 and 9 that a plurality of LEDs is arranged in a two-dimensional pattern forming an angular distribution of light input into the light guide with respect to the optical axis of the light guide, for example as explained at the bottom of page 5 and the top of page 6 of the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 USC § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-8 and the 35 USC § 103(a) rejections of claims 1-14, 18, and 19 is respectfully requested.

The Office action objects to claims 15-17 as depending from the rejected base claim, but states that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base and any intervening claims. This having been done in this amendment, withdrawal of the objection to claims 15-17 is respectfully requested.


In view of the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may

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Page 7 of 7

best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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